Delay in import of medical equipments for research

*96. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that duty exemption process for importing medical equipment for medical research is very much time consuming and some times it frustrates the very purpose for which duty exemption is granted;

(b) whether it is a fact that it almost takes three years to get duty free medical equipment for research;

(c) what are the stages through which such proposals are processed; and

(d) whether Government would see that the procedure for imports are finalised within six months?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The duty exemption process for import medical equipment for research by public funded institutions like ICMR and Universities has been simplified and made expeditious since the introduction of Pass Book scheme in 1988. Under this scheme, there is no need for going through the administrative Ministry of obtaining clearance from Directorate General of Technical Development. The Head of the Institutions is authorised to certify the essentially as also absence of indigenous manufacturing capability on this basis, research equipment can be conveniently and expeditiously imported free of duty.

Hiking of prices of oil by OPEC

*97. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) propose to cut down its production to hike oil prices; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to curtail the import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) It is reported that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to increase the quota of production of crude oil from 23.582 million barrels per day during 3rd quarter of 1993 to 25.520 million barrels per day for the 4th quarter of 1993 and 1st quarter of 1994. As a consequence there may not be any impact on India's oil import bill.

Persons killed during recent assembly elections

*98. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons killed during election violence in the course of assembly elections in the five States held recently;

(b) what is the number of booths where repolling was held; and

(c) whether it is a fact that booth capturing took place in large areas of the five States in spite of the many strict measures taken by the administration?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): As per information furnished by the State Government the position is as follows:—

(a) 14 persons are reported to have been killed in election related violence.

(b) 435 booths.

(c) Government have no information about booth capturing in large areas of the five States.